

National Register of Historic Places Nominations Summaries

April 20, 2017 Board of State History Meeting

"The Harold W. and Evelyn Burton House, constructed in 1923 in Holladay, Utah, is locally significant under Criterion B in the area of Architecture. The period of significance reflects the time that the Burtons occupied the house, 1923 through 1930. The house was designed by and was the primary residence for Harold W. Burton, his wife Evelyn, and their four children. Harold Burton was a prominent architect in Utah at the time. His wife, Evelyn, was active in developing Gilmer Park Subdivision, now listed as a part of the Gilmer Park Historic District. She was also one of the principal owners of that project.¹⁸ Burton's firm, Pope and Burton, designed several significant and iconic buildings in Utah and the region during the time he lived in the house. Because of health reasons he moved to California in 1930 where he continued to design many temples and meetinghouses for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) in the U.S. and Canada during his prolific career. He ultimately moved back to Utah and became the Chief Supervising Architect for the LDS Church, so his influence is felt worldwide in the buildings he designed and projects he supervised. Although much of his work of importance continued after he moved from here, this house is the best preserved of his residences in Utah, the others having been impacted by a loss of historical integrity. For this reason, the Harold Burton House is significant and eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places."

"The Granite Schools Campus, located in South Salt Lake City, is locally significant under Criteria A and C. The period of significance for the complex begins in 1906 with the first use of the Scott School building to house the recently formed Granite High School and ends in 1967, the end of the historic period and when the school was still in use. Under Criterion A, the school complex has local significance in the areas of Education and Politics/Government. The extant historical structures of the property reflect the growth and evolution of education in Utah and the Salt Lake Valley from the early 1900s to the post-World War II era. The evolution of the educational system included curriculum changes that emphasized new and expanded class offerings at different periods in time. The property is also locally significant under the area of Politics/Government for the involvement of New Deal programs in constructing one of the more prominent buildings in the complex—the A Building. This building stands as an example of how the infusion of federal funds through make-work programs forever altered the architectural landscape of the Salt Lake Valley. The Granite Schools Campus is also significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of the evolving architectural trends for educational institutions in Utah during the early-to-mid-1900s. The extant buildings retain a high degree of historical integrity and represent myriad period-specific styles, including late-19th century Classical style, early-20th century Neo-classical Revival, Art Deco, and PWA Moderne styles, and post-World War II Modern style. The buildings also represent some of the more notable public works of local architects such as Miles E. Miller and the firm of Cannon & Fetzer. The collection of school buildings represent a significant historical resource in South Salt Lake, Utah."

"The Johnson Ranch House, a single-cell random-rubble sandstone and log house located in a remote area of Grand County, Utah, has local significance under Criterion A and C in the context of exploration and economic development in Southeastern Utah during the first decades of the twentieth century. The Johnson Ranch House is a remarkably enduring monument to a period of intense development that changed the people and the land of Southeastern Utah.

Constructed of local sandstone and logs circa 1906 and abandoned before 1916, this house is significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History for its association with the dramatic transformation of the American West between 1870 and 1915, and mostly particularly after the passage of the 1902 National Reclamation Act. The National Reclamation Act allowed the Secretary of the Interior to designate power and irrigation projects and to establish a reclamation fund from the sale of public lands to finance projects in the arid Western United States. The legislation ushered in a period of intense land speculation based on the idea that reclamation projects would be quickly developed and new areas would shortly open to agriculture. The Johnson Ranch House was built during the height of the post-1902 Green River speculative boom and was directly related to both agriculture and a large-scale dam project. Although there is no specific historical documentation of its construction, the Johnson Ranch House was probably built in 1905-06 by members of the Charles Peter Johnson family with the intent to receive a Desert Lands Patent with Green River water and to also serve as a mercantile post for workers on the Coal Creek Buell Dam project several miles up-river. The built traces of that defining but ephemeral boom period have almost all disappeared, making the Johnson Ranch House an even more exceptional and significant local architectural resource.

The Johnson Ranch House is also significant under Criterion C for its unique vernacular random-rubble sandstone and log roof construction. The house is the best preserved and only known remaining late nineteenth- and early-twentieth century vernacular random-rubble sandstone and cottonwood log single-cell structure with historical integrity in Southeastern Utah. The Johnson Ranch House is also one of only a handful of rock dwellings constructed in the Tavaputs Plateau and along the Green River, all of which were built during the Euroamerican settlement and development of the Green River between 1871 and 1915. The Johnson Ranch House retains almost all of its original form, roof and structural system and is a unique and significant local architectural resource."

"The Robert Gardner, Jr House, constructed in 1848 in Millcreek, Salt Lake County, Utah has statewide significance under Criterion A, B and C in the context of settlement, social history (Mormon polygamy) and milling in the Salt Lake Valley as well as early construction methods in the region. The residence has statewide significance under Criterion A for its association with settlement, industry and social history of the Salt Lake Valley. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint pioneer settlers arrived in Utah in the fall of 1847 and camped in a temporary fort in Salt Lake City for the winter. Robert and his brother Archibald Gardner were among the first settlers allowed to move out in the early spring of 1848, expressly directed to develop the first sawmill in the Salt Lake Valley to allow for building construction in Salt Lake City. The Gardner families chose Mill Creek to build their first working mill and farm, and immediately constructed adobe houses. The initial saw-mill lasted only a few years, when the saw assembly was moved closer to available timber resources up Millcreek Canyon and into Big Cottonwood Canyon. In 1849, the Gardner brothers constructed a more substantial grist mill on the site, which was the second built in Utah. Robert was also instrumental in developing major canals through the Salt

Lake Valley to facilitate milling and agriculture in the arid Utah climate which receives less than 20 inches of precipitation annually. Although the Robert Gardner, Jr. house was directly associated with milling and agriculture for 72 years until 1920, Robert Gardner, Jr. sold the property to LDS Church President Brigham Young in 1862 and moved to Southern Utah at Brigham Young's direction, ending his association with this house. The house is significant under Criterion B in the areas of settlement and industry for its association with Robert Gardner, Jr. a Mormon pioneer, influential millwright, water developer, statesman and polygamist both in the Salt Lake Valley and later Southern Utah. Robert Gardner, Jr. lived in the house with his first three wives Jane, Cynthia and Mary Ann. Although all four of his wives' residences in Pine Valley, Utah are still standing, this is the only extant house in which Robert Gardner, Jr. permanently resided. The Robert Gardner, Jr. house is also significant under Criterion C for its design and construction by Robert Gardner, Jr. It is the earliest known remaining example of an adobe brick construction and hall-parlor house type in Utah. With its three-bay façade under a gable roof; cobblestone foundation, multiple-wythe adobe brick walls and timber beam construction, the Robert Gardner Jr. house exhibits the quintessential qualities of the hall-parlor-type house, which was the most common residential type in the Utah during the second half of the nineteenth century. The Robert Gardner, Jr House was modified in the 1930s to repair neglected adobe, enlarge window openings and add stone features to the main and east facades. It was further modified in the 1950s and 1960s to add a sunroom and enclosed rear porch. Despite those alterations, which are primarily visual and superficial, the house retains almost all of its original significant structural timber and adobe elements, hall-parlor form and overall architectural design. Although the integrity of design and materials has been compromised to some degree, the property still retains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. The Robert Gardner, Jr. House is a contributing historic resource in the community of Millcreek, Utah."

J. Cory Jensen
National Register Coordinator
Utah State Historic Preservation Office
300 S. Rio Grande Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
coryjensen@utah.gov
[801/245-7242](tel:8012457242)